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TWO WORTHY SPEECHES

Spoken in the Honourable Houſe

OF

COMMONS,

By Sir

75.

Benjamin Rvdyard,

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At ſeverall times.

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Two Speeches ſpoken by Sir Benjamin Rudyard, in the High Court of Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER,

I Do verily believe, that the Vote we have already paſſed for the Disbanding the Armies the firſt and tenth of *March*, will finde us no further on our way, then where we now are, beſides the ill Accidents that may happen, and ſo much precious time ſpent, as till then.

Sir, The Main Buſineſſe is, whether we ſhall have a preſent Treatie or no? and this concernes us in all that we Have and Are, ſince we Refuſed a Treatie at *Nottingham*, I doe not find that we have gotten much ground, although our Armie then was freſh, full, and full payed: the people erect, bountifull, and forward to the warre. Now the Diſpoſition of the Kingdome, for the greateſt part, ſtands bent toward a Peace: ſo that whereſoever the Refuſall or Delay of the way to it ſhall be fixt, the Diſadvantage will fall on that ſide. How cleare ſoever the intentions of the Houſe are, yet abroad it will be taken but as a ſhew without Reality, and ſo it will be returned upon us.

For the Propoſitions, I have not known nor heard,

that all the Propoſitions in any Treatie of Importance, were ever ſwallowed whole. If ſome be harſh and rough, they may be wrought and ſuppled by wiſe Treaters, made fit for an acceptable agreement. If other be unpaſſable, they may be totally rejected. Thoſe that are our unqueſtionable Rights may be ſo claimed and held.

Mr. Speaker, We have already taſted the bitter bloudy fruits of warre, we are growne exceedingly behind-hand with our ſelves ſince we began it: if we perſiſt, there will ſuch a confluence of Miſchiefes break in upon us, as I am afraid will ruine the King, the Kingdome, the Nation; unleſſe God be mercifull to us, and do ſtep in with a great Miracle, for a little one will not ſerve our turne.

I have long and thoughtfully expected, that the cup of trembling which hath gone round about us to other Nations, would at length come in amongſt us. It is now come at laſt, and we may drinke the Dregs of it, the worſt; Which God divert.

There is yet ſome comfort left, that our Miſeries are not likely to laſt long. For we cannot fight here as they doe in *Germanie*, in that great, large, vaſt continent: where although there be warre in ſome parts of it, yet there are many other remote quiet places, for trade and tillage to ſupport it. We muſt fight as in a Cock-pit, we are ſurrounded with the Sea. We have no ſtronger Holds then our own Sculls and our own Ribs, to keep out our enemies; ſo that the whole Kingdome will ſuddenly be but one flame.

It hath been ſaid in this Houſe, that we are bound in

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conſcience to puniſh the ſhedding of innocent bloud: but Sir, who ſhall be anſwerable for all the innocent bloud which ſhall be ſpilt hereafter, if we doe not endeavour a Peace, by a ſpeedy Treatie? Certainly, God is as much to be truſted in a Treatie as in a warre: it is He that gives wiſedome to treat, as well as courage to fight, and ſucceſſe to both, as it pleaſeth Him. Bloud is a crying ſinne, it pollutes a Land: why ſhould we defile this Land any longer?

Wherefore *Mr. Speaker*, Let us ſtint Bloud aſſoone as we can. Let us agree with our Adverſaries in the way, by a preſent, ſhort, wary Treaty. God direct us.

A Speech ſpoken in the Honourable Houſe of Commons by Sir Benjamin Rudyard.

Mr. *Speaker*,

IN the way we are, we have gone as farre as words can carry us: We have voted our own Rights and the Kings Duty: No doubt there is a Relative Duty between a King and Sbujects; Obedience from a Subject to a King, protection from a King to His. The preſent unhappy diſtance between people His Majeſty and the Parliament, makes the whole Kingdome ſtand amazed, in a fearfull expectation of diſmall Calamities to fall upon it: It deeply and conſcionably concernes this houſe to compoſe and ſetle theſe threatning, ruining diſtractions. Mr. *Speaker*, I am touched, I am pierced with an apprehenſion of the Honour of the Houſe, and ſucceſſe of this Parliament. The beſt way to give a ſtop to theſe deſperate imminent miſchiefs is, to make a faire way for the Kings return hither; It will likewiſe give beſt ſatisfaction to the People, and will be our beſt Juſtification. Mr. *Speaker*, that we may the better conſider the condition we are now in, let us ſet our ſelves three years back: If any man then could have credibly told us that within three Years the Queene ſhall be gone out of *England* into the Low-Countries, for any cauſe whatſoever, The King ſhall remove from his Parliament

ment, from *London* to *York*, declaring himself not to be safe here, That there shall be a totall Rebellion in *Ireland*, Such discords and distempers both in Church and State here, as now we find; certainly, we should have trembled at the thought of it: Wherefore it is fit we should be sensible now we are in it.

On the other side, If any man then could have credibly told us, That within three yeares yee shall have a Parliament, it would have been good newes; That ship-money shall be taken away by an act of Parliament, the Reasons and grounds of it so rooted out, as that neither it nor any thing like, it can ever grow up again; That Monopolies, that the high-Commission Court, the Starre Chamber, the Bishops Votes shall be taken away, the Councell-Table regulated and restrained, The Forrests bounded and limited, that yee shall have a triennial Parliament; and more then that, A Perpetuall Parliament, which none shall have power to dissolve without your selves, we should have thought this a dream of happinesse; yet now we are in the reall possession of it, we doe not enjoy it, although his Majestie hath promised and published he will make all this good to us we stand chiefly upon further security; wheras the very having of these things, is a convenient faire security, mutually securing one another: there is more security offered, even in this last answer of the Kings, by removing the personall Votes of popish Lords, the better education of Papists children, by supplying the defects of Law against Recusants, besides what else may be enlarged and improved by a select Committee of both Houses named for that purpose

poſe. Therfore Sir, let us beware we do not contend for ſuch a hazardous unſafe ſecurity, as may endanger the loſſe of what we have already; let us not think we have nothing, becauſe we have not all we deſire; and though we had, yet we cannot make a Mathematicall ſecurity; All humane Caution is Suſceptible of corruption and failing; Gods providence will not be bound, ſucceſſe muſt bee his; he that obſerves the wind and rain, ſhall neither ſow nor reap; if he doe nothing till he can ſecure the weather, he will have but an ill harveſt.

Mr. *Speaker*, it now behoves us to call up all the wiſedome we have about us, for we are at the very brink of combuſtion and confuſion: If bloud once begin to touch bloud, we ſhall preſently fall into a certain miſerie, and muſt attend an uncertaine ſucceſſe, God knowes when, and God knowes what. Every man here is bound in conſcience to employ his uttermoſt endeavours to prevent the effuſion of bloud; bloud is a crying ſinne, it pollutes a Land; let us ſave our Liberties, and our Eſtates, as we may ſave our ſouls too. Now I have clearely delivered mine own conſcience, I leave every man freely to his.

FINIS.